

An Taisce Report – IBAL Anti-Litter League, Round 1, 2018

Roscommon: 26th out of 40 towns / cities surveyed. Clean to European Norms.

A typically strong showing from Roscommon if not at the level of recent years. Some of the very good sites surveyed in Roscommon included the two approach roads, Harrison Centre and Loughnaneane Park – the latter is an extensive site which was exceptionally well presented and maintained with all aspects of the park in very good order. Clearly a careful eye is kept on the Vacant / derelict site (Sunnyside) by Castle Park as there was no litter directly associated with it. The Pedestrian approach to Loughnaneane Park was riddled with litter, much of it alcohol related.

R366 Creggs Approach Road: Grade A. This neat and trim road created a positive first impression of Roscommon town. Grass verges were impeccable.

Main Street: Grade B. Great care has been taken with the presentation of the Main Street – flagstone paving looks well, substantial planter boxes add some welcome greenery, 'olde' style street lamps were attractive and bins were in good condition. Much of the street was good with regard to litter but there was a definite litter presence outside the betting shops and pubs. A beer keg was left beside a street bin.

St. Ciaran's Park: Grade B. There was a noticeable litter presence at St. Ciaran's Park – mostly fast-food wrappers, sweet papers, cigarette related litter and some plastic. It was noted that the overall presentation of the surroundings was much improved – some properties were previously in a poor state and have now been refurbished.

Pedestrian approach to Loughnaneane Park: Grade C+. Much, but not all, of the litter along this pathway was alcohol related. The level was such that it will only deteriorate further if not addressed. When the black gates were first installed a few years ago it was noted that the alcohol related litter dropped somewhat – this was no longer the case this time around.

Loughnaneane Park: Grade A. This large park presents very well and provides a mix of green space, playground, PE equipment, pond and some wild-flower growth – all aspects of the area surveyed were in very good order. It scored very well with regard to litter.

Vacant / Derelict House (Sunnyside) by Castle Park: Grade A. There was no litter directly associated with this two storey building. The blue front door was without door furniture and paint was peeling extensively.

Recycle Facility at Tesco: Grade C+. The overall impression created here was quite untidy with the level of items such that it was verging on Grade C status. As the units are not flush with the railings to the rear there is the opportunity for items to gather. There was broken glass to the front and to the rear with plastic bags, boxes and other small items also present. The main signage relating to the use of the facility was in good condition but placed to the side of the main row of recycle bins.

Harrison Centre: Grade A. This small shopping area is accessed from both the Main Street and a car park to the rear. The individual premises were well presented and tidy in appearance. Paving, seating, planting and bins were in good order. It scored well with regard to litter.

N63 Lanesborough Approach Road: Grade A. Road surface signage and markings were in very good order, creating a positive first impression of the town. There was plenty of greenery along one side of the road.

N61 Roscommon – Athlone Connecting Road: Grade B. The impression created driving along this rural route was moderately littered.